

S-E-**SECRET**[redacted]  
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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversations with Mr. John Bross, Chief, EE Division,  
on 23 May 1956

25X1 1. [redacted] and I arranged an appointment with Mr. John Bross this morning to bring him up to date insofar as we could on the progress of events which have lead to the apparent decision to split Detachment A operations between [redacted] and an as yet undesignated base in Germany. In view of the fact that Mr. Bissell was meeting with Tracy Barnes in Frankfurt today, presumably discussing the matter of locating at least a portion of Detachment A activities in West Germany, [redacted] and I felt that it was not unlikely that even prior to Mr. Bissell's return later this week Tracy Barnes might shoot a cable off to John Bross plunging him into the middle of support operations, about which he would know nothing.

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2. Dick and I reviewed the developments leading up to (1) our deployment to [redacted] and (2) the cover story which we are presently using. Mr. Bross pointed out that his last contact with Mr. Bissell on the matter of Project business had come in late February and since that time he had not been conversant with developments.

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3. We told Mr. Bross that it was our expectation that we would not require direct communications or administrative support from Frankfurt to any greater degree than we were already receiving from the [redacted] and we outlined informally the requirement which we are sure would develop almost overnight for the transmission of [redacted] pouch material directly to Frankfurt for relay to our detachment people wherever they might be located. Mr. Bross expressed himself as being willing to help in any way that he could either in the administrative, operational or communications support field and indicated to us also that he greatly appreciated our attempt to bring him at least as far along the garden path as we ourselves could go at this moment.

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4. His own reaction, which I believe had been expressed to Mr. Bissell in February, regarding advisability of briefing Chancellor Adenauer and/or General Gehlen on the fact that Project AQUATONE was operating against the USSR from German soil was that he did not still feel it was necessary to read either of these in or any other high placed individual in the German Government. He said he felt that to brief Adenauer, who may well be on the verge of retirement, might set a precedent for the briefing of his successor, who might not be so charitably inclined toward our activities. He also noted that since the ill-fated balloon episode in January, he felt that the Chancellor

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